

JERRY KRUEGER SR.

394 E. HASKELL

W. ST. PAUL, MN 55118

Nov. 11, 1999

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F.D.A. Commissioner,

Jane E. Henney

5600 Fishers Lane

Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney:

For more than 30 years doctors have used the antibiotic vancomycin when all others have failed. Now vancomycin itself is starting to fail. More than half the strains of *Enterococcus faecium*, a bacterium that causes infections after surgery, are resistant to it.

Enter Synercid, a new antibiotic that was approved by the FDA in September. As you probably have heard, in about half the cases, Synercid works where other antibiotics - including vancomycin - don't.

But bacteria have already started to become immune to Synercid.

Part of the problem is that a close cousin of Synercid, virginiamycin has been routinely fed to poultry (to speed growth) for over a decade. That might explain why bacteria are starting to become resistant to Synercid.

To keep this from happening I urge you to prohibit livestock producers from routinely adding medically important antibiotics to animal feed to promote growth. Thank you.

Sincerely,

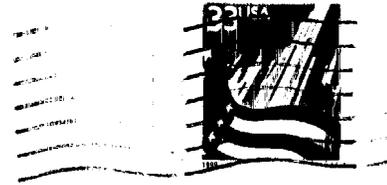
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